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April 16, 1999

Food and Drug Administration Department of Health and Human Services 5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

We recently learned that your department has come under increased pressure by the Center of Science in the Public Interest to mandate the treatment of raw shellfish. The industry has long been monitored by the ISSC and they have done an excellent job of integrating the various health and industry concerns. We believe that our customers should have the right to choose between fresh and "treated" oysters. Consumer education and awareness can and does protect the very small number of people at risk. Furthering regulation will only add to the cost for the consumers, reduce demand and hurt an entire industry.

The New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association strongly feels that shellfish should not be treated, that the ISSC should continue to be the body which regulates shellfish and that they work with our associations to further educate the consumer.

Sincerely,

Betty Falton President

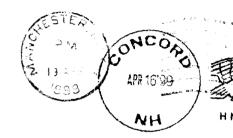
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